



VOMARC Picnic

—By Robert KA5WSS

The VOMARC Picnic is making a comeback! John (W8EWL) has graciously offered his beautiful home for our 2022 gathering. This will take place on Saturday, Sept. 24th starting at 3:00 PM. We're probably looking at 5:00 PM for the main meal.

The club will provide burgers and hotdogs. We ask you to bring a side dish, dessert and perhaps something to drink as well. We'll email everyone before the event to record who's bringing what. Detailed directions on how to get to John's place will also be supplied at a later time.

Before dinner begins we'll have a presentation by members of the [North Bay Area Mesh](#). They are looking to expand the Bay Area's microwave network into Marin and Sonoma counties. Of particular interest are homeowners who live at elevation. Such lofty perches could greatly assist in expanding network coverage for all. For suitable locations equipment may be provided for free due to grant funding the group recently received. They'll have equipment on hand to show exactly what a typical installation looks like.

There have been a number of recent VOMARC weekly nets on Wednesday evenings (145.35

MHz at 7:30 PM) where a good conversation has been started up based on questions posed by Hams checking in. It's great to see and I hope the trend continues.

Please join us on the net and offer up any questions you have concerning Amateur Radio or technology in general. There may be one or more people who can help and we'll all learn something together. If you don't have your license yet, or are a bit shy to ask, just send us an email via the website and we'll pose the question for you.

NEXT MEETING

Sat, September 24, 2022, 3 pm

Topic: **2022 VOMARC Picnic**

Location: **W8EWL's QTH**

Minutes of the Aug 17 Meeting

MEMBERS: KA5WSS (Robert), KG6QNT (Eileen), N6TTV (Carl), KD6FIL (Dave), N7PIB (Sanford), W8EWL (John), N6LY (Elizabeth), K6YD (Kevin), W1EJ (Ed), KM6URP (Kathy), N7TSQ (Joe), AE6SW (Scott), K6GSM (Marc) WD6BOR (Darrel), KE6HID (Andrew), WB6TMH (Mike)

GUEST: AG6TT (Steve)

Business and Officer Reports

Adopt meeting minutes as published in the newsletter? Motion made and seconded to accept minutes as written.

OFFICER REPORTS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Eileen, KG6QNT-
Nothing to report

ACS LEAD - Moe, KI6JNU- not present- ACS level one training is scheduled for Saturday, October 8. Visit the Sonoma County ACS website for more information.

VE LIAISON - Elizabeth, N6LY

July 30th 8 tested, all passed. Some upgrades some completely new.

Upcoming sessions: Oct. 29th.

Masking and reservations are still required.

RADIO OFFICER - Mike, WB6TMH- Nothing to report

Weekly Net Control

This month - Carl, N6TTV

Next month - Sam W5LTP

TRUSTEE - Darrel, WD6BOR

Thank Liz and Kevin for help with Young Eagles.

Secretary/Treasurer - Dave, KD6FIL

About 3k in the bank

VICE PRESIDENT - Ed, W1EJ – Nothing to report

PRESIDENT - Robert, KA5WSS

NA QSO Party Phone

VOMARC Picnic - Saturday, September 24th starting at 3:00 PM. Will be held at John's (W8EWL) QTH. Directions to be emailed later. Robert will reach out again to the North Bay MESH people again. Lots of outdoor space and an outdoor porta potty. The picnic will take the place of the regular monthly meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next month's meeting topic: N/A - VOMARC Picnic instead.

Mystery Box drawing - postponed until in-person meetings are possible and we can be sure

COVID-19 is not one of the contents. Jack, K6ZMF, has it for now. Ed will contact Jack to see if it can be brought to the picnic in Sept.

MEETING TOPIC - Connecting Radios to Computers, for Digital Communications by Steve Rishton (AG6TT)

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL



Elizabeth and Kevin at Young Eagles Sunday

—Photo by Darrel WD6BOR

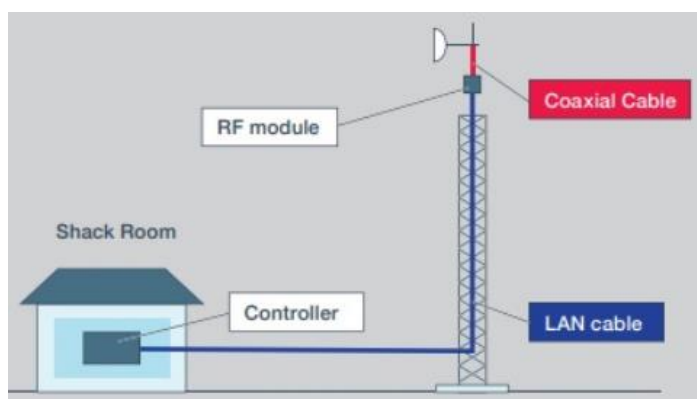
Icom IC-905

Officially Announced

At a recent Tokyo Hamfair Icom [announced a category breaking radio, the IC-905](#). and released a [promo video](#). This appears to be the first commercially made VHF, UHF *and SHF* radio for the Amateur market. It will cover 144 MHz, 430 MHz, 1.2 GHz, 2.4 GHz, 5.6 GHz and 10 GHz. The 10 GHz band requires an optional transverter. There have been a number of [blog posts](#) and [YouTube videos](#) by others covering its release.



Given high feedline loss at the higher frequencies the radio's control unit and RF module are connected by an Ethernet cable through which power is supplied. This allows the radios to be installed right at the antenna(s), cutting losses.



All modes you'd expect from a multimode radio are present, including DStar. But there's also an analog FM Television mode with video display right on the console.

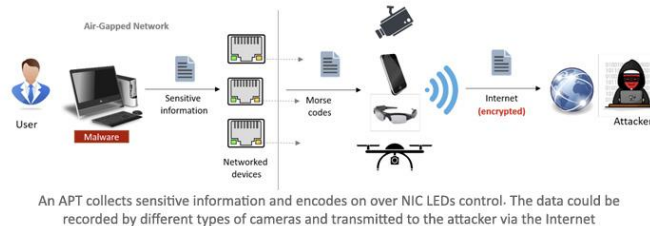
No word on pricing yet. Overall, it's a clever design and it will be interesting to see whether it leads to an increase in microwave activity on the Ham bands.

Want to learn about another way to help utilize the Ham microwave bands? Be sure to attend our VOMARC picnic later this month. The [North Bay Area Mesh](#) folks will show off some equipment and their plans to expand network coverage of one of the largest high speed networks in the country.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Morse Code Via Hacked Computer LEDs

A security researcher [has documented an attack vector of using LED lights on hacked computers to transmit information](#). "Air Gapped" computers and networks, those not connected to external networks such as the Internet, make extracting information from them difficult. But by taking over an LED on an infected box, data can be encoded via Morse Code or other methods.



A receiver can then observe the flashing and decode the message(s). This method does require the receiver of the data to be able to see the device. This does limit its effective range but a number of workarounds are contemplated.

—Submitted by Robert, KA5WSS

Trading Post

Mike (K3ROQ) is searching for anyone looking to sell their Yaesu 857D.

Mike (WB6TMH) has a few years worth of QST magazines he'll give away to anyone who wants them.

Ed (W1EJ) has a Signalink jumper option unit and 13 pin DIN cable (SLMOD13K and SLCAB13K, *not* the Signalink box itself) to interface various Kenwood HF radios with the 13 pin ACC port. He will donate them to a club member for free.

Robert (KA5WSS) has an Extra class license manual free to whoever wants it. Though the questions in the book are not from the current pool, the theory is all still applicable.

—Submitted by Robert, KA5WSS

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY

Our next test session will be on Saturday, October 29.

Please reserve in advance if you want to join the hobby or move on to the next level.

We will still be requiring masks and will seat candidates appropriately spaced.

This is a testing session only, we don't offer classes or cram sessions.

If you are testing for a new license, you will be required to pay a \$35 fee to the FCC, in addition to the fee below, once you pass the test to receive your license and call sign. This does not apply to upgrades.

Sponsor: Valley of the Moon ARC

Time: 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM if there is enough demand
(Reservations required)

Contact: Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey (N6LY)

Email: n6ly.emm (at) [gmail.com](mailto:n6ly.emm@gmail.com)

Location: Sonoma Police Station EOC room
175 1st Street West, Sonoma

Candidate Requirements:

- A photo identification or (2) non-photo ID's
- [FCC Registration Number](#)
- Original and a photocopy of your current license (if licensed)
- Any original valid CSCE's and a photocopy of each
- Radiotelegraph license, if held (see VE)
- Exam fee is \$15.00, Under 18 is \$5.00

COVID-19 Requirements

To ensure the health and safety of all applicants and examiners, for the duration of

the COVID-19 pandemic the following requirements also apply. There will be no exceptions to these requirements.

- All candidates must reserve a spot ahead of time via email. See contact info above.
- Sessions limited to six applicants at a time.
- All participants must wear a mask (covering both the mouth and nose).
- Please bring your own pens and pencils.
- Chairs and desks will be sanitized before each session.

Why Test With Us?

Every candidate who takes an FCC examination with VOMARC is entitled to a free year's worth of membership in the club, regardless of whether you pass or not! Each applicant is also provided with a welcome kit of some helpful information on how to get started on their Amateur Radio adventure.

Misc

- Welcome to our new VOMARC member Chuck Tarr (WA6VAG)!
- Andrew (KE6HID) reminds us that Pacificon 2022 will be taking place Oct. 14-16 in San Ramon. Anyone else going?
- N6TTV worked 23 contacts in NA QP Phone. This happens to be the exact same number of contacts made by Robert (KA5WSS). W8EWL made a contact with a Wyoming station at 10,000 feet in a park during the contest.
- **Carl (N6TTV)** made 8 contacts in the [HI QSO Party](#) despite bad conditions.
- **Robert (KA5WSS)** also encountered bad conditions and made 8 contacts during the [ARRL September VHF Contest](#).

- **Sanford (N7PIB)** has worked at least 2,701 parks as part of the [Parks on the Air](#) (POTA) program.
- **Mike (WB6TMH)** has moved into his new house!
- According to ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station), [simultaneous APRS and FM repeater operations are now functioning](#) on the orbiting platform.
- This YouTube video on [how cell service actually works](#) is also a great primer on radio modulation that covers AM, FM, FSK, PSK, TDMA and CDMA. Highly recommended. A [recent article in the ARRL's On The Air magazine](#) also covers the topic.
- According to Wikipedia, telegraph operator [Emma Hunter may have been the world's first telecommuter](#).
- A four year [challenge to create more efficient electrically small antennas has started](#). The stated goal is to produce designs that achieve a 6 to 10 db improvement over current small antenna designs such as loop antennas.

—Submitted by Robert, KA5WSS

Parks on the Air Adventures

By Elizabeth N6LY

During the past month, I activated my 100th unique park, for Park on the Air.

The 100th park was Pigeon Point Lighthouse, as part of a 3-park adventure to the Pescadero Coast area, including Butano State Park, and Ano Nuevo State Beach.

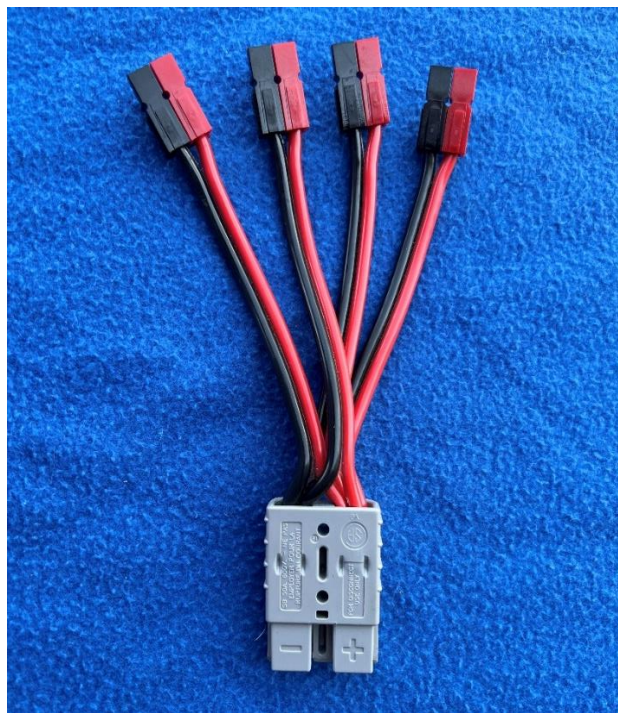
Now on to my next 100, which will probably take a year, as we are running out of parks that can be done in day trips. We will have to plan some camping/road trips.



OCTOPUS OR QUADOPUS

By Ed W1EJ

An item I picked up at a Ham swap or Pacificon, I don't remember. It has eight wires but only four Power Pole pairs; but quad or oct it doesn't matter. I thought it would be handy to hook up to a battery and then power multiple devices on Field Day or a POTA activation. I also thought I had the matching Anderson Power pole connector to match it and it turns out I did. All I needed was some lugs, six-gauge wire, and a crimper to crimp large lugs and the power pole pins. Like many other project ideas the parts were put in a box, found once in a while, then back in the box.



At field day this year I had issues hooking up items to my battery; solar charger, radio, led lamp etc. Those issues are what finally got me to think, it is time to figure out the Octo/Quad project. Even though the bright light came on, it still took me months to get around to seeing it.


I had lugs, wire, and several of the SB50 shells and pins. The SB50 is rated for 50 AMPS and has pins available for 6, 8, or 10 gauge wire. Now for a crimper Research on-line showed several

types: compound mechanical, pound with a hammer, and hydraulic. I decided the hydraulic type was the way to go. I saw several on-line for \$50 to \$300, and of course one at Harbor Freight for \$70. After my years of delay, I couldn't wait. I downloaded a 20% coupon and went to Harbor Freight. For \$55 plus tax I was ready I still debated (with myself) whether to solder or crimp the Power Pole pins and crimping won. The result was in the category of "Why did I wait so long"



I guess I could have borrowed a crimper. I'm sure one of our members, a well-known electrician, has one of the good high-priced ones; but then I would have had to return it. The tool is a little clumsy to hold and pump while also holding the wire and connector, but you get used to it Now, I should order more of the SB50s. I added a set to the battery alligator clip leads I salvaged. I am open to lending the tool with the appropriate "Hold Harmless and Indemnify" agreement.

QSL Card Inbox

MAURITIUS ISLAND				
3B8CF				
KASWSS				
DATE	GMT	MHZ	RS/T	2-WAY
10-01-90	0324	14	SA	SSB
				
Op: SEEWOSANKAR MANDARY VQ8CF, VQ8CFB, 3B6CF, 3B7CF, 3B8CF, VQ9SM, KB1PR QSL for any of the above to be sent direct to 3B8CF				
<i>July</i> VY 73 Add: Shastri Road, Candos, Quatre Bornes - MAURITIUS Tel./Fax: (230) 424-5866 Email 3B8CF@INTNET.MU				

Not an all time new one, since I had recently received an FT8 QSL from Mauritius, this card is still a gem. It's the only contact I've made with the island on SSB. Plus, the QSL card is 32 years in the making. I finally got around to requesting a QSL from 3B8CF and thankfully, this card showed up in the mail.

—Submitted by Robert .KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 26 EDITION 8 A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—Or—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2022

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.